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ARTICLES



In Memoriam: Imre Sutton

Dan Cole, Smithsonian Institution

Imre Sutton passed away on the evening of October 25, 2012, due to the effects of prostate cancer. He was professor of geography at California State University, Fullerton from 1964 to 1995, where he taught cultural geography, conservation and ecology, law and environment, water resource planning, geographic writing and research, natural hazards planning, and Indian law and land. He was a founding member of the Environmental Studies graduate program, acting as department chair, director, and instructor. As a consultant, he advised academic and legal scholars, students, public officials, and Indians, as well as book and journal editors. And as a student of musicology, Imre was a lifelong amateur pianist and improviser who composed more than one hundred piano pieces.

Beginning in 1964 with his unpublished UCLA doctoral dissertation, "Land Tenure and Changing Occupance on Indian Reservations in Southern California," Imre conducted a long career of research and publication, including *Indian Land Tenure: Bibliographical Essays and a Guide to the Literature* (1975); edited *Irredeemable America: The Indians' Estate and Land Claims* (1985); and coedited (with Richmond L. Clow) *Trusteeship in Change: Toward Tribal Autonomy in Resource Management* (2001). He self-published *Indian Affairs and Geographers: The Research Vitality of Land Tenure and Territoriality* (2004), and *Securing Trust Lands for Indians in Southern California* (2010). He developed an online research guide, *American Indian Territoriality* (2003–2005), and also edited several symposia ("Land Tenure in the West," "California Indian Research," "The Political Geography of Indian Country," and "The Continuing Saga of Indian Land Claims"). He published numerous papers in this and other journals, and served on the editorial board of the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* from 1984 to 2001. Through all of these works, Imre Sutton has influenced and inspired multiple generations of scholars.

I have known Imre since the late 1980s when we first corresponded concerning cartographic research that I was conducting for the *Handbook of*

North American Indians. After that time, we stayed in touch by mail, email, phone, and in person when either of us had a question that the other could answer, or knew where to find the answer. Most recently (2007–2012) we worked together as coeditors on *Mapping Native America: Cartographic Interactions between Indigenous People, Government and Academia* (under review by the Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press). He continued to work on revisions to our book up until shortly before his death. His daughter, Heidi, stated that “he was teaching and working until the very last; even his night nurse said that she learned a lot from him when they chatted during the times he was able. I guess it’s obvious that he worked up to the last he could editing the book.”

I have always felt honored that Imre recruited me to be the coeditor of this work. His stimulating discussions and emails enlivened my interest in the mapping of Indian lands and resources. Multiple colleagues have reaffirmed with me his generosity of spirit, both in terms of sharing copies of his work, as well as giving sage advice. He will be remembered for his wealth of knowledge, as well as his wit, warmth and good counsel. Imre will be sorely missed as a professional colleague and a good friend.

Pamela Grieman, AICRJ

Imre Sutton was a tireless supporter of this journal and encouraged many of his younger colleagues to submit their work. I regret that we never met in person, but over the years we had many e-mail exchanges. He was a most knowledgeable and helpful resource, always ready to assist other authors and answer questions about ways to produce or procure maps. He generously offered advice about maps to Eric Marin and me for our current film documentary. He was such a friendly, helpful, knowledgeable man. I will miss him.